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Programme of work

Trade Subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021

Summary

This document contains the trade subprogramme's strategic framework for the biennium 2020-2021, which was endorsed by the Bureau members in October 2017.

The document is presented to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for information.

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Subprogramme 06: Trade

I. Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To foster a conducive policy and regulatory environment for trade in goods and economic cooperation in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*		*Performance measures*			
			2020-2021	*2018-2019*	*2016-2017*	*2014-2015*
(a) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	(i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies	Target	22	22	22	24
		Estimate		22	22	24
		Actual			51	25
	(ii) Number of new measures introduced by member States to implement ECE trade recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools	Target	4	4		
		Estimate	4	4		
		Actual				
(b) Increased consensus on the development of ECE recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation.	Number of new and/or revised recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies	Target	2	2	2	1
		Estimate		2	2	1
		Actual			4	1
(c) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	(i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies	Target	25	25	25	25
		Estimate		25	25	25
		Actual			39	33
	(ii) Increased number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards by member States	Target	1600	1500	1000	1000
		Estimate		1500	1000	1000
		Actual			1500	1439
(d) Strengthened capacity for export diversification in the ECE region	(i) Number of new measures introduced by member States to remove regulatory and procedural barriers and increase the contribution of trade in goods to export diversification	Target	10			

II. Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the trade-related

Sustainable Development Goals to support, in particular, Goals 8 and 9. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through:

(a) International policy dialogue on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those caused by administrative procedures as well as documentary and regulatory requirements, which hamper market access and undermine the trade sector's contribution to export diversification;

(b) Normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation;

(c) Demand-driven training workshops and advisory services to support the implementation of ECE standards and recommendations and to disseminate best practices and lessons learned in the subprogramme's areas of work.

2. The subprogramme will contribute to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable, efficient and non-discriminatory trading system in the region, which is geared towards supporting the achievement of export diversification. To that end, the subprogramme will promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective supply chain processes through the development and maintenance of trade facilitation instruments;

(b) A predictable and harmonized regulatory environment by strengthening regulatory cooperation and promoting standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance;

(c) Agricultural trade through the development of agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines;

(d) Export diversification through the development of recommendations on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in goods and strengthening the capacity for their implementation.

3. The subprogramme will support Governments in their national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and trade policy.

III. External factors

4. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand for ECE standards and recommendations; (c) member States provide the necessary information; (d) there is active participation by experts in ECE technical meetings; and (e) donors' support for the work of the subprogramme is adequate.

IV. Legislative mandates

Overall ECE legislative mandates*

General Assembly resolutions

* As of 20 June 2017. To be updated by PMU

66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
71/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/18	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/212	Information and communications technologies for development
71/223	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
71/226	Disaster risk reduction
71/228	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
71/233	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/244	South-South cooperation
71/283	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

2016/2	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A(67)	Adoption of the High-level statement
B(67)	Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

Subprogramme 6: Trade

General Assembly resolutions

69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
70/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
71/239	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
71/242	Industrial development cooperation
71/245	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

Economic and Social Council decision

1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"